Concept note


Organized by: The Permanent Mission of Albania

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Date: 14 December 2023
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Location: ECOSOC Chamber
Participation: The Arria-formula meeting is open to all UN Member States, Observer Offices, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the press.

To inscribe to deliver remarks, please provide the Member State name, speaker’s name, and title to enian.lamce@mfa.gov.al by 4 p.m. 13 December 2023. Participation at the Permanent Representative or Chargé d’Affaires level is encouraged.

Translation will be provided in all six languages.

All participants and members of the Security Council are encouraged to deliver succinct statements, with non-members of the Council limiting their statements to no longer than 3 minutes.

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Overview

Young people are the bearers of hopeful worldviews, capable of forging a path towards a future free from ethno-nationalist tensions, hate speech, and historical interpretations rooted in nationalism. While they possess immense potential to contribute to peace and reconciliation efforts, they can also be susceptible to involvement in violence and extremist ideologies if their roles are not clearly defined within post-conflict landscapes.
United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace, and Security provides a comprehensive framework for engaging young people in the pursuit of peace and acknowledges their vital role in upholding and promoting peace and security. The UN Secretary-General’s report (S/2020/167) on Youth, Peace, and Security encourages meaningful youth participation in peace and security initiatives. Furthermore, the "Our Common Agenda" report emphasizes the commitment of Member States to collaborate with and empower youth, including young women and girls in political representation.

Regional organizations play a pivotal role in empowering youth and fostering cooperation among young individuals from various nationalities in reconciliation processes. Initiatives like the Berlin Process, the EU’s Western Balkans engagement strategy, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) have directly influenced youth activism in the region, particularly in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and social cohesion efforts.

Recognizing and supporting the diverse ways in which young people engage in nation-building is a crucial step toward developing a cohesive and prosperous Western Balkan region. Youth-led organizations and initiatives have established new channels of communication across different ethnicities, becoming agents of change with a more constructive approach to reconciliation and rebuilding trust between societies.

**Objective:**

This Arria-formula meeting aims to exchange insights and best practices related to youth-led initiatives in the context of reconciliation and peacebuilding, highlighting the positive impact of young people in these processes.

In a broader context, it seeks to explore how the Security Council can best support the implementation of SC Resolution 2250, particularly in post-conflict settings.

**Briefers**

The invited briefers for this meeting will be:

1. Dr. Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
2. Mr. Albert Hani, Secretary General of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)
3. Anne Tallineau, Secretary-General of the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO)
4. Youth from Kosova (TBC)
5. Youth from Serbia (TBC)

Guiding Questions:

1) What obstacles do Member States encounter in aligning with and implementing the provisions of SC Resolution 2250 (2015) concerning youth engagement in relevant peacebuilding processes?

2) How can the Security Council better facilitate the meaningful inclusion of youth in peacebuilding efforts, particularly in the Western Balkans and other regions?

3) What are the most effective ways and best practices for incorporating the perspectives of young people, with a particular focus on young women, in the development of regional programs, projects, and political agendas?